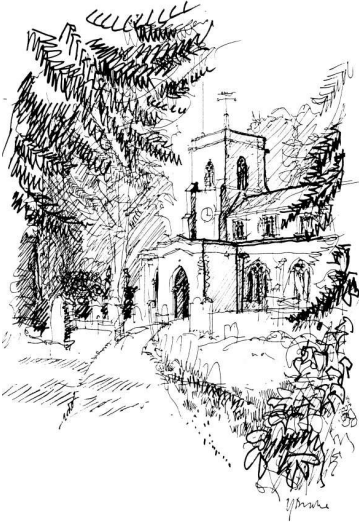


New Life

The Monthly
Magazine for the
Parishes of
St Mary the Virgin,
Fen Ditton,
St Peter, Horningsea
and
All Saints, Teversham



St Mary the Virgin



All Saints



St Peter

The Parishes of St Mary the Virgin, Fen Ditton, St Peter, Horningsea and All Saints, Teversham

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October 2026

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£50 Owen Johnson (197)

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£20 Jackie Ambrose (58)

£10 Emily Burt (84)

£10 James Hutt (33)

Dear Friends

For those who haven't caught up with my news, I have been partly seconded by Bishop Sarah to be Interim Assistant Archdeacon covering the archdeaconry of Cambridge. This follows the departure of our local archdeacon, Alex Hughes (to be Bishop of Brixworth). Our new bishop needs a bit of time to ponder some significant appointments – a suffragan bishop, a dean, an archdeacon and a personal chaplain. Having me in an interim role of nine months will give her time to get oriented and work out what sort of people she needs.

I will be working 2.5 days a week in this role, including every other Sunday. That leaves me 1.5 days per week in the parishes. But the good news is that the Revd Becky Warner will be joining us (see below) and working 3 days per week plus Sundays. I will be literally and metaphorically handing over the keys – this will be the last stage of her training curacy and it would be great for her to have the experience of being the lead priest.

I will still be around, to support and supervise Becky, and to do one or two things, including overseeing the Fen Ditton development project. I will be largely doing parish work on Fridays and can still be contacted in the usual ways.

My role in the archdeaconry involves working closely with the bishop and real archdeacon in providing pastoral support to clergy and lay leaders, doing troubleshooting and overseeing appointments (amongst several pages of role description!). If you are praying person then please say one (or lots) for me.

* * * *

What a fabulous time we had last weekend (as I write) with the arrival of the Vikings in Horningsea. It was an amazing spectacle, highly educational (they knew their stuff) and hugely enjoyable. Big

thanks go to John and Liz Harrison whose field was occupied by the invading army and who gave so much of their time and energy to accommodating the needs of the Pagan Hordes, to Priya Kalia for the excellent publicity and to Lindsay Davies who devised and organised it all (and to the myriad helpers she brought together). Well done all.

* * * *

We celebrate our Harvest Festivals in early October – food gifts will be received at all three churches. The ones at Teversham and Fen Ditton will go to the local food bank.

At the end of the month we begin the remembering season with our ‘Time to Remember’ services, the first of which is at Horningsea on Saturday 31 October at 3pm. We specially invite loved ones of those who have died - and whose funerals we have conducted – over the past few years. But all are invited, of course, and have the opportunity to lay flowers, light candles and remember those who have been dear to us.

With my warmest greetings

Nick

Our Parishes

If you would like to discuss baptism or thanksgiving for the birth of a child, the reading of marriage banns and weddings, or arrangements for a funeral at any of our churches, please contact Nick, our Rector/Vicar (see inside cover for contact details).

Do you have something to announce, someone to thank or congratulate, or a request to make? If so, send your message to the Editor and see it published here!



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Becky Warner writes:

I am delighted to be coming to join you in the Three Parishes, and am really looking forward to getting to know you all. I live in a rural village called Coveney, just outside Ely with my husband Chris (who is also training for ordination!) and our 9-year old labrador, Murphy. I trained for ordination at ERMCM (Eastern Region Ministry Course), where Sharon also trained, and am now in the third year of my curacy. I have served the first two years of my curacy at St Paul's, on Hills Road in Cambridge.

I am a musician, and studied Music at Cambridge and then Composition for Screen at the Royal College of Music. I've worked for 25 years as a freelance musician, mostly composing for theatre and writing musicals. I play the harp, cello and piano, and I also supervise undergraduate dissertations on musical theatre, having previously held various university lecturing roles. I will be part-time in my ministerial role, and will continue to do some creative projects alongside.

I love walking in the countryside around us, and growing things on our allotment. I also enjoy cross stitch and craft, and all things creative. I am really looking forward to getting involved in the communities of Fen Ditton, Horningsea and Teversham and meeting you, joining you in prayer and worship, being a presence in the schools and communities and journeying together.



In Our Time - Vikings and Anglo-Saxons discussion at Horningsea

On Tuesday 18th Horningsea Church had calmed down after the Viking raid, and about 85 of us crowded into the available pews, the choir stalls and the sanctuary (the new floor was not ready) to listen to three eminent experts discussing who the Vikings actually were and what happened to them after the raid of 870AD. The answer was that they moved in here (and all up the whole of the north and east of the island) and most of us have them somewhere in our ancestry. Some of them came back again from Norway and Denmark, ‘acquired’ land around Horningsea, probably married the local girls and settled down. Within a couple of generations most of the Scandinavian newcomers had become Christians – while probably retaining some long-held pagan beliefs alongside the new faith.

Bede tells us that there was a church at Horningsea by 870AD. Horningsea’s church was one of those which survived the raids. Not all the churches did, but Horningsea’s community rebuilt and worship continued here, probably with some new variations as the settlers’ ideas were absorbed. It seems that the Scandinavian incomers who had taken land felt they ought to give some back, so Horningsea Minster recovered at least some of its land.

All was not sweetness and light though. We know Horningsea’s church was a Minster. Monasteries as we know them from later medieval times didn’t exist then and although a Minster meant a sort of early community of priests they could own property and mix with the populace. Horningsea’s priests seem to have received stolen goods and wrangled with each other. Probably this sort of poor example was fairly typical before the tenth century movement to set up monasteries with Benedictine discipline. In about 975AD there was some argy-bargy over land and bad behaviour resulted in the

matter being referred to the King, because Horningsea Minster had some sort of Royal status, A powerful opportunist called Athelwold, Bishop of Winchester, saw a chance to help his pet project which was the fashionable new monastery at Ely and somehow the land was ‘acquired’ again this time by Athelwold and transferred to Ely, apparently for valuable consideration but probably not what the previous owners thought they should receive.

So then Horningsea Church and its lands belonged to Ely and life gradually settled down, until the next big events in history washed over the area and more Scandinavians - the Normans - arrived in the 11th century. But that’s another chapter.



Ancient Shepherds’ Book Club

We meet at The King’s Head, Fen Ditton, on the first Wednesday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. Please join us there or contact Carol, on 07941 492271, for further details.

Wed, 4th November, ‘My Grandmother Sends her Regards and Apologies’ by Fredrik Backman

Wed, 2nd December, ‘To the Lighthouse’ by Virginia Wolf



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Report on the Viking Raid on Horningsea

On the 12 and 13 September 2026 the Vikings came back to Horningsea to repeat the Raid that had taken place in the year 870! They arrived on the Friday evening having launched their longboat, The Bear, at Clayhithe. They set up camp on Church End Field and the boat was moored on the river bank. The encampment of stalls displayed clothes, furs, food, eel catching equipment, weaving, herbs, chain mail and weapons. There was a church tent with a banner, robes and calligraphy. There was a fire pit with a large cauldron of stew bubbling away.

On Saturday morning more Vikings arrived from various parts of the country to join in. The Bear's mast and sail were put up as visitors watched and admired. A few small skirmishes took place on the battle field. In the afternoon The Bear was rowed down stream, where a number of local boaters were waiting. It turned and came back to make its grand arrival. On the bank there were a dozen or so Saxons waiting (plus a couple of hundred visitors!). The Vikings put on their armour and at a running pace marched up to the church - followed by the crowd. At the church there was a solitary monk, guarding the "treasure". The Vikings quickly overpowered him, grabbed the treasure, threw him over their shoulder and marched back to the battle field where he was dumped into the middle of the battle. There were "bodies" lying all over the field and

eventually, after the monk grabbed a spear and "killed" a Viking, he too was "slain". All of this was very rowdy with the crowd joining in the shouting and cheering. Everyone was thoroughly enjoying themselves!

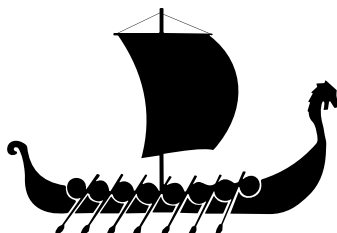


That evening the Vikings (in full Viking outfits) rowed up to Fen Ditton for a quiet drink in The Plough to the amazement of people who were in the pub!

On Sunday the activities and events continued in a similar way. All weekend tea and cakes were served in the church. This was a chance to show visitors the building work that is underway. The weekend closed with The Bear being rowed back to Clayhithe and a service in the church during which we looked at what is known of Viking Christianity including the crosses found in Scandinavia.

We know that some of “our” Vikings settled and converted to Christianity - eventually giving the land they had seized back to the church.

All in all it was a splendid weekend. The comments in the visitors book include “marvellous”, Brilliant”, “ great day”, “scary”, “have learnt a lot”, “how wonderful, our children will remember forever”. So, thank you to everyone who helped to make it such a success - Grantabrycg and Regina Anglorum, to the Harrison family, to all those who did the publicity, to those who made tea and cakes and to everyone who came - and to the Heritage Lottery Fund who made it possible.



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CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITIES NEED AN AI SPEAKING RULE BEFORE AUTOMATION BECOMES ORDINARY

Cambridge is discussing artificial intelligence today in settings that range from healthcare to ordinary business processes. [The Cambridge Forum on AI and Health at the Corn Exchange](#) is bringing together researchers, healthcare leaders, technologists, policymakers and investors, while an [evening event at Raspberry Pi's new headquarters](#) is focused on putting AI into real organizational workflows.

For local community groups, charities, small firms and families, the immediate question is more modest: when AI helps create something that will be sent to another person, who owns the words?

A useful answer is an AI speaking rule. AI may help draft, summarize, compare or reorganize information, but a named person remains responsible for anything that leaves the organization or household in its name.

That rule matters because drafting is one of the easiest places for AI to become routine. A volunteer can use it to prepare a notice. A small business can draft a customer reply. A club can summarize meeting information. Someone helping a relative can organize a long set of notes before a conversation. Each use may save time, yet the recipient usually cannot see where the machine's contribution ends and the person's responsibility begins.

Before an AI-assisted message goes out, the human owner should answer four questions.

First, who is the audience? A rough internal note and a public notice need different levels of care.

Second, which factual claims need checking? Dates, prices, names, policies, medical information and other concrete details should be

verified against the original source rather than trusted because the draft sounds confident.

Third, does the message include information that should not have been placed into the AI tool in the first place? Personal, confidential or sensitive material deserves more caution than ordinary public information.

Fourth, would the named sender be comfortable defending the final wording if a recipient challenged it? If not, the message is not ready to send.

This approach fits the wider lesson emerging from Cambridge's current AI activity. [The business-process event at Raspberry Pi's new headquarters](#) emphasizes involving employees who understand the work, using real operational knowledge and preserving human expertise. Those principles matter just as much in a parish group or small local organization as they do in a larger company.

The [UK Business Data Survey 2026](#) shows why simple rules are useful now. Among businesses handling digitized data, 41 percent reported using AI for at least one purpose, but only 17 percent of AI-using businesses said they had formal or informal AI policies or guidelines. Everyday use is spreading faster than formal governance.

Most local organizations do not need a thick AI policy. They need a few rules people can actually remember when they are busy.

The speaking rule is one of them: AI can help prepare the words, but a person owns the message. That keeps the convenience while preserving something communities depend on more than speed: visible human responsibility.

Gleb Tsipursky, PhD, a behavioral scientist, CEO of Disaster Avoidance Experts, and author of The Psychology of AI Adoption at Work: From Resistance to Results (Georgetown University Press, 2026)



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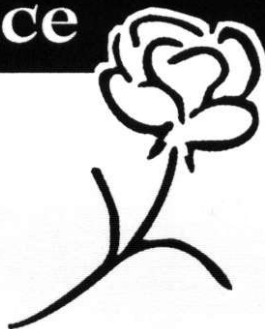
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Fen Ditton Gardening Club

We held our 42nd Annual Village Show on Saturday 12th September. For the first time it took place at Fen Ditton Primary School. Despite a Summer of extreme heat and a hose pipe ban, it was wonderful to see so many entries of fruit, vegetables and flowers.

Although it wasn't our biggest show of recent years, we still had a total of 31 entrants (in our 46 classes), with 152 individual entries. The school hall was full of vibrant colour with amazing produce, blooming flowers, handicrafts, photographs and artwork. Thanks to the Mrs Thompson (Executive Head of Fen Ditton and Marleigh Primary Schools), encouraging the school children to enter something into the 'Something I have made (non edible)' class, we had an amazing 241 entries. A new record!

The school PTFA were on hand selling tea, coffee and delicious cakes and other sweet treats, as well as the Church who had a stand selling homemade jams and other items.

We would like to thank Mrs Thompson for letting us host the Village Show at the school, the judges for their vital contribution to the Show and the PTFA and the Church for joining in. Of course a huge Thank You to all members of the committee who worked so hard to make it a success. Finally thank you to all the entrants who made the effort to show their produce and art.

A total of 16 trophies were awarded, as shown in the accompanying table on page 22.

Club Meetings

Our first meeting of the gardening club year will be the **AGM and Social on Tuesday 13th October**, starting at **7.30pm** at **Fen Ditton Village Hall**. Wine and soft drinks will be available, along with cheese and biscuits.

The AGM is an opportunity for the committee to share the highlights of the past Gardening Club year and to inform members of upcoming plans for 2026/27.

We always welcome new members.

Members range from those with a passionate interest in gardening and allotment growing, to those who enjoy visiting gardens and coming to listen to our varied and interesting speakers.

We meet monthly (from October-April), on the forth Tuesday of the month and listen to some varied and interesting speakers. The programme changes during the summer months and includes weekend garden visits, a picnic and a plant sale.

Membership is **£10** for the year. This can be paid on the night of the AGM by cash or card. Guest price on the night £3.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 13th October 2026 **Annual AGM & Social**

Tuesday 24th November 2026 **Margaret Nimmo Smith - Making the Best of Small Gardens**

Saturday 5th December 2026 **Christmas Party *members only – details TBC**

Tuesday 26th January 2027 **Jill Halliwell - Skipping Through an Arts & Crafts Garden**

For all enquiries about the Gardening Club, please refer to our webpage at <http://fdgc.uk> or email s@fdgc.uk. We can also be found on Facebook and Instagram.

SPECIAL AWARDS	TROPHY	NAME
Most points Section A	Bob Fison cup	L. Minichiello
Most points Section B	Ansell cup	P Mackenzie
Most points Section C	J Francis cup	M Minichiello
Most points Section D	Cambridge United cup	D Ainsworth-Patrick
Best in section E	John Drake memorial cup	Rebecca
Best handicraft exhibit	Joanna Faye trophy	C Wren
Best vegetable exhibit	Ray Matthews cup	L Minichiello
Best fruit exhibit	Brown & Tawse cup	I Griffith
Best flower exhibit	Kingsbury cup	E Wieser
Best flower arrangement	June Wright cup	P Mackenzie
Best domestic entry	CAMGAS cup	M Minichiello
Best photographic entry	J & M Huntridge cup	I Griffith
Collection of vegetables (class 15)	Len Gooden cup	D Collins
Best exhibit in Show	St Mary rosebowl	D Ainsworth-Patrick
Most points in Show	Frank Burton trophy, RHS Banksian medal	P Mackenzie
Novice	C & C Lang salver	P Mackenzie



Message from Margret Buxton

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the beautiful painting of St Mary's Church and the garden gift card which I was presented with at my last service on 30th August. I was touched by the kind words and good wishes. St Mary's has been a big part of my life for the last 42 years.

I will miss you all but have many happy memories of church events and of your friendship. Thank you again.

Margaret Buxton

Services in St Peter's Horningsea in October

Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 4 October at 10.30 at St Peter's Church Horningsea

We hope that most of the work in the church will be finished ... but whether or not it is we will be celebrating Harvest on Sunday 4 October at 10.30. This has been a particularly difficult year for farmers given the weather and we will hear from our local farmers and allotment holders about the ups and downs of their harvests. Liz Harrison will be organising flower arrangers to decorate the church so if you would like to help decorate a window sill - or if you have flowers, foliage or fruit please let her know. The produce will be sold after the service for Farm Africa.

Pet Service on Sunday 11 October at 4pm at St Peter's Church, Horningsea

Continuing the theme of Creation, on Sunday 11 October at 4pm we will have a short service celebrating our pets. Bring along your dogs, cats, hamsters, white mice ... or other creatures. Please keep them safe - dogs on leads, small furries in cages or crates ... If you have not got a live animal, then bring a favourite toy - whether it is an elephant or whale!

Saturday 31 October at 3pm A Time to Remember at St Peter's Church Horningses

This will be a quiet, reflective service when you can come and remember loved ones who have died - whether recently or some time ago. Bring a flower if you like. There will be candles to light to put on the graves or in front of the Memorial Stone, or to take home.





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100 years of Winnie-the-Pooh

One hundred years ago, on 14th October 1926, the children's book Winnie-the-Pooh, by A A Milne, was published.

It was set in the Hundred Acre Wood, an innocent world described as "largely Edenic" but based on Ashdown Forest in East Sussex, which the Milne family often explored from their home in nearby Hartfield. It came about through the encouragement of E H Shepard, Milne's colleague on the humorous magazine Punch, who provided the beguiling illustrations.

Alan Alexander Milne was firstly a playwright and occasional mystery story writer who, again with Shepard, wrote the book of children's verse When We Were Very Young, which contained the seeds of Winnie-the-Pooh and its sequel, The House on Pooh Corner, all of which proved extremely popular.

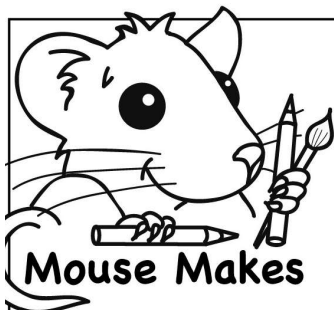
It was apparently during a family visit to London Zoo, where Christopher Robin encountered a tame bear called Winnipeg, that the book was conceived. Winnie's literary friends, such as Piglet and Eeyore, were originally toys of the real Christopher Robin.

Sadly, the book eventually had an adverse effect on the Milne family. The author said that he felt "amazement and disgust" at the fame his son had had thrust upon him: "I do not want C R Milne to ever wish that his name was Charles Robert." Nevertheless, the son did become estranged from his parents, especially following his marriage to his mother's niece.

The effect of the book on others has been happier. A plaque at Ashdown Forest declares that Milne and Shepard "captured the magic of Ashdown Forest and gave it to the world".

Despite creating a kind of Eden, Milne, who was a pacifist, said little about religion. But he did say on joining the Home Guard that "in fighting Hitler we are truly fighting the Devil, the Anti-Christ ... Hitler was a crusader against God."

The four Winnie-the-Pooh books went on to sell more than 50 million copies worldwide. The first book became the first-ever foreign-language book on the New York Times bestseller list.



The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

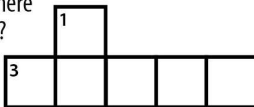
The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?

2



3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged

Hebrews 4:12



B I B L E S U N D A Y

4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.

5. The first book of the Bible.



6. God's word is like?

A _____ and a _____
Psalm 119:105

8. The last book in the Bible.

5

8

6

7

9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.

9

10

11

12

11. The last book in the Old Testament.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

13

14

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?

12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?

13. The Bible is also known as the

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman



of God.
Hebrews 4:12



THE THREE PARISHES

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2026



ST MARY'S
FEN DITTON



ST PETER'S
HORNINGSEA



ALL SAINTS
TEVERSHAM

Sunday 4 October <i>18th after Trinity</i>	10.30am Harvest Festival All-age Communion	10.30am Harvest Festival	4.00pm Village Service
Wednesday 7 October	12.00pm Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)		
Sunday 11 October <i>19th after Trinity</i>	10.30am Holy Communion	4.00pm Pet Service	10.30am Harvest Festival Holy Communion
Sunday 18 October <i>St Luke the Evangelist</i>	8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) 10.30am Baptism & All-age Service	10.30am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 21 October		8.30pm Compline (Night Prayer)	
Sunday 25 October <i>Last after Trinity</i>			10.30am United Holy Communion
Saturday 31 October		3.00pm Time to Remember	